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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/674,664	09/29/2003	William J. Brosnan	IGT1P024C1/P-247CON	5022
22434	7590	11/26/2004	EXAMINER	
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS LLP			COBURN, CORBETT B	
P.O. BOX 778				
BERKELEY, CA 94704-0778			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3714	

DATE MAILED: 11/26/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/674,664

Applicant(s)

BROSNAN ET AL.

Examiner

Corbett B. Coburn

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 September 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 18-43 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of claims 1-17 in the reply filed on 9 September 2004 is acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-7, 9, 16 & 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Seelig et al. (US Patent Number 5,560,603)

Claim 1: Seelig teaches a master gaming controller (34) that determines game outcomes and controls the game outcome presentations for one or more games in a manner allowing simultaneous game outcome presentations for two or more separate game sequences – the movement of each car (62) is a separate game sequence. There is a display screen (20) that simultaneously displays the game outcome presentations for the two or more game sequences.

Claim 2: A first game is initiated by a first player and a second game is initiated by a second player said first player different from said second player. Each player is assigned

a car. These cars move independently of each other and the motion depends on the input of the respective players. (Col 2, 48-57) The game outcome presentation from said first game is clearly presented simultaneously with the game outcome presentation of said second game – they all appear on display (20).

Claim 3: The game outcome presentations from the first and second games are presented on a shared display screen receiving signals from at least the gaming machine and one other gaming machine. (Fig 1)

Claim 4, 17: The first game outcome presentation appears to interact with the second game outcome presentation on the display screen – the cars appear to race.

Claim 5: A game event in said first game or a game event in said second game trigger a bonus game for said first player and for said second player. The triggering event in one of the linked machines starts the race. This race is a bonus game in which all players participate. The occurrence of the triggering event on one machine triggers the bonus for players on the other machines.

Claim 6: Since display (20) serves as the display for several gaming machines (12-18), one or more game outcome presentations for one or more game sequences from the gaming machine are displayed on the display screen of a second gaming machine.

Claim 7: The game outcome presentation from a game sequence on said second gaming machine is simultaneously displayed with the game outcome presentation from the gaming machine on the display screen of the second gaming machine.

Claim 9: The display screen (120) is selected from the group consisting of a video display screen, a video touch screen and LCD screen. (Col 5, 28-33)

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Claim 16: The game outcome presentation includes a bonus game.

4. Claims 1 & 10-16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Pierce et al. (US Patent Number 6,047,963)

Claims 1, 10-13: Pierce teaches a master gaming controller (430) that determines game outcomes and controls the game outcome presentations for one or more games in a manner allowing simultaneous game outcome presentations for two or more separate game sequences. Pierce teaches that the pachinko game display may be a large display linked to 20 slot machines. (Col 3, 14-16) Each of these is capable of generating a game outcome presentation – each may cause a ball to be played. There is a display screen (30) that simultaneously displays the game outcome presentations for the two or more game sequences. If two or more of the 20 slot machines causes a ball to be played at the same time, the display screen would display two or more pachinko game sequences simultaneously.

Claim 14, 15: The game outcome is determined by the master gaming controller from a pay table. (Tables I-VI) Different paytables may be used for each game. (Col 14, 63-64)

Claim 16: The game outcome presentation includes a bonus game.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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6. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Seelig in view of Seelig et al (US Patent Number 5,560,603) (henceforth, Seelig '603).

Claim 8: Seelig teaches the invention substantially as claimed. It could be said that the game outcomes are independent of any other game since each car moves independently. Yet the payouts for the cars are not independent – the first to cross the finish line wins the prize. Seelig '603 recognizes that this may cause problems. If one of the horses won relatively early, in the race, other players might quit – thus depriving the casino of revenue. (Col 1, 50-56) Seelig '603 suggests that the payout for each racer be independent of the other racers in order to alleviate this problem. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Seelig in view of Seelig '603 to have the game outcomes be independent of any other game in order to keep people from quitting if one racer wins early in the game.

Conclusion

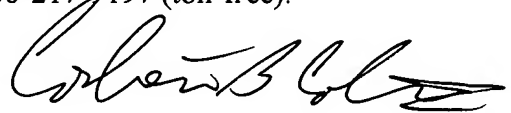
7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Roffman et al. (US Patent Number 6,375,568) teaches another concurrent game display.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Corbett B. Coburn whose telephone number is (571) 272-4447. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5:30, Monday-Friday, alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Derris Banks can be reached on (571) 272-4419. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Corbett B. Coburn', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Corbett B. Coburn
Examiner
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